

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Sections 25.0172(c), (c-1), (j), (v), and (w), Government Code, are amended to read as follows:

(c) *Any of the county courts at law may hear* ~~[The County Courts at Law Nos. 4, 6, 11, and 12 shall give preference to]~~ criminal cases and appeals de novo from the municipal and justice courts.

(c-1) The County Courts ~~[Court]~~ at Law Nos. 7 and ~~[No.]~~ 13 of Bexar County, Texas, shall give preference to cases prosecuted under:

(1) Section 22.01, Penal Code, in which the victim is a person whose relationship to or association with the defendant is described by Chapter 71, Family Code; and

(2) Section 25.07 or 25.072, Penal Code.

(j) The judge of a county court at law shall be paid *as provided by Section 25.0005* ~~[an annual salary in an amount not less than \$25,000 and not more than the total annual salary, including supplements, paid a district judge in the county]~~. The compensation shall be paid out of the county's general fund or officers' salary fund. ~~[The commissioners court shall consider the financial condition of the county and the duties and needs of the county court at law judges in setting the salaries of the judges.]~~ Before raising a salary the commissioners court must publish notice containing information of the salaries affected and the amount of the proposed raise in a newspaper of general circulation in the county. The commissioners court may raise the salaries of the county court at law judges only after 10 days' notice and only at a regular meeting of the commissioners court.

(v) Section 25.0006 ~~[25.0006(a)]~~ does not apply to a county court at law in ~~[County Courts at Law Nos. 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15 of]~~ Bexar County. ~~[Section 25.0006(b) does not apply to County Courts at Law Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15 of Bexar County.]~~

(w) This section does not apply to the *statutory probate courts* ~~[County Court at Law No. 1 and Probate Court]~~.

SECTION 2. Sections 25.0172(a), (b), and (i), Government Code, are repealed.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

Passed the Senate on April 7, 2015: Yeas 31, Nays 0; passed the House on May 15, 2015: Yeas 138, Nays 1, two present not voting.

Approved May 28, 2015.

Effective September 1, 2015.

**PROVIDING TRAINING ACADEMIES FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL
TEACHERS WHO PROVIDE MATHEMATICS INSTRUCTION
TO STUDENTS IN KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE
THREE**

CHAPTER 202

S.B. No. 934

AN ACT

relating to providing training academies for public school teachers who provide mathematics instruction to students in kindergarten through grade three.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Subchapter J, Chapter 21, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 21.4553 to read as follows:

Sec. 21.4553. TEACHER MATHEMATICS ACHIEVEMENT ACADEMIES. (a) The

commissioner shall develop and make available mathematics achievement academies for teachers who provide mathematics instruction to students at the kindergarten or first, second, or third grade level.

(b) A mathematics achievement academy developed under this section must include training in effective and systematic instructional practices in mathematics, including problem solving, the place value system, whole number operations, and fractions.

(c) The commissioner shall adopt criteria for selecting teachers who may attend a mathematics achievement academy. In adopting selection criteria under this subsection, the commissioner shall:

(1) require granting a priority to teachers employed by a school district at a campus at which 50 percent or more of the students enrolled are educationally disadvantaged; and

(2) provide a process through which a teacher not employed at a campus described by Subdivision (1) may attend the academy if the academy has available space and the school district employing the teacher pays the costs of the teacher's attendance.

(d) From funds appropriated for that purpose, a teacher who attends a mathematics achievement academy is entitled to receive a stipend in the amount determined by the commissioner. A stipend received under this subsection is not considered in determining whether a district is paying the teacher the minimum monthly salary under Section 21.402.

(e) On request of the commissioner, regional education service centers shall assist the commissioner and agency with training and other activities relating to the development and operation of mathematics achievement academies.

(f) This section expires September 1, 2027.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

Passed the Senate on April 23, 2015: Yeas 30, Nays 0; the Senate concurred in House amendment on May 22, 2015: Yeas 30, Nays 1; passed the House, with amendment, on May 18, 2015: Yeas 130, Nays 11, one present not voting.

Approved May 28, 2015.

Effective May 28, 2015.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A READING EXCELLENCE TEAM PILOT PROGRAM

CHAPTER 203

S.B. No. 935

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of a reading excellence team pilot program.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 28, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 28.0061 to read as follows:

Sec. 28.0061. READING EXCELLENCE TEAM PILOT PROGRAM. (a) Using funds appropriated for that purpose, the commissioner shall establish a reading excellence team pilot program in accordance with this section.

(b) A school district is eligible to participate in the pilot program if, as determined by the commissioner, the district has low student performance on: